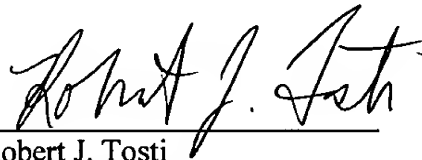


Applicants hereby cancel claim 27 without prejudice to their right to pursue the subject matter of this claim in this or a related application. Applicants also amend claims 22 and 26, and add new claims 28-33. Claims 22-26 and 28-33 are now pending. Applicants submit that none of the amended or new claims introduces new matter, and that claims 22-26 and 28-33 are in condition for allowance. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the originally filed application at, for example, page 10 and in, for example, original claim 21.

Claims 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morrison et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,748,986) ("Morrison"). Morrison describes a guide wire with a core of carbon steel or titanium (Col. 2, lines 5-10) and two connected coils (Col. 3, lines 11-12), where one of the coils ends proximal to the distal end of the core (Figure 3). Applicants submit that Morrison at least fails to disclose a core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy and a coil surrounding a substantial portion of the core and extending distal of the distal portion of the core, as recited in amended claim 22. Applicants thus submit that claims 22-26 and 28-33 are patentable over Morrison.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of claims 22-26 and 28-33 in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



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